Aug 1974

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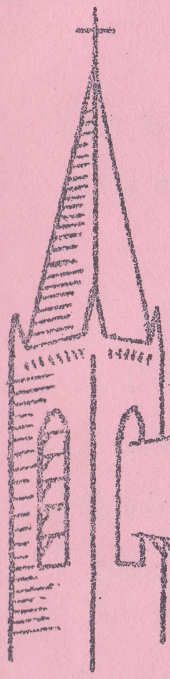

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

Blessed are they who understand
my faltering step and shaky hand;
Blessed, who know my ears today
must strain to catch the things they say;
Blessed are they who seem to know
that my eyes are dim and my mind is slow;
Blessed are they who looked away
when tea spilt on the cloth today:
Blessed are they with a cheery smile
who stop to chat for a little while;
Blessed are they who never say,
"You've told that story twice today";
Blessed are they who know the ways
to bring back memories of yesterdays;
Blessed are they who make it known
that I'm loved, respected and not alone;
Blessed, who know I'm at a loss
to find more strength to bear my cross;
Blessed are they who ease the days
of my journey home in loving ways.

(Written by an old gentleman in Hospital in Quebec, Canada, in appreciation of kindnesses shown. Submitted by Mrs. Margaret Holden).

Thought for the month:

Live life then, with a due sense of responsibility.
Make the best use of your time.
Don't be vague, but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of the Lord.
Express your joy in singing, making music in your hearts for the ears of the Lord.
Thank God at all times for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
And 'fit in with' each other, because of your common reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5: 15.

The Manse,

August 1974

My dear friends,

Some time ago I heard a story which I would like to pass on to you. It was about a young Sudanese man who was a very great admirer of the celebrated General Gordon. As time went by the young Sudanese met a charming girl and they married. Later their marriage was blessed with a son. As he began to grow up it was his father's joy to take him often to the centre of the town and show him a statue of General Gordon seated on a camel. At the same time the father would tell some of the great deeds accomplished by the General.

In the course of time the family had to move away from the town and the father and son made their last pilgrimage to see General Gordon. After standing for a few minutes before the statue, father said to the boy, "Say 'Good-bye' to General Gordon, my son", and the boy, reaching out, stroked the nearest leg of the camel and lovingly ran his hands over its bronze feet. Then he said, "Good-bye, General Gordon. I love you - your feet are so smooth".

If I may refer back to Jonah and the Whale for a moment. Many people enjoyed the presentation of the story as it was done. I wonder if, in the midst of it all, whether the message was received. I mean, we don't want another case of a mistaken meaning.

The importance of the story of Jonah, as was said at the time, is not with the whale or any other of the incidentals, but with the task God gave Jonah to do and the manner in which he did it. Jonah delivered the message in the end, but he did it without love and God reproved him. We, as a church, have been given a message from Christ and have been commanded to make it known - with love - to all whom we meet. Let us then know what it is we are about and let us set ourselves wholeheartedly to do it,

enjoying as we do so our fellowship of love in Christ Jesus and our happiness in seeking to share it with others.

May God bless us all as we try to serve Him in the street or the shop, the office or wherever.

Your sincere friend

ALFRED NASH

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BAPTISM

On Sunday June 9th at LITTLEBOROUGH U.R.C.

DENICE REYNOLDS

daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds, 142 Royds St., Rochdale.

.... May God richly bless this little one ....

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To those folk both at Milnrow and Littleborough who have not been feeling so well of late, we would lift you all to God our Father praying He may restore you and that you may, at all times, feel His Presence to be very near.

Don't forget to keep the 'Practical Resolutions' as seen on page 9 of our last issue, in mind. Your Minister is always ready to help you keep your resolve. So give it another thought and have a word with him about it.

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The wellspring of faith flows constantly,
only the pool of human effort becomes empty.

For the attention of contributors to SEPTEMBER MESSENGER!

In view of the editor being on holiday, Mrs. D. Emmott would be pleased to receive all material by 18th August.

Please note new address: 25 Heaton Street.

WANDERERS & ENVOYS

Sunday Three in July proved to be a very special occasion. The ramble "over hill, over dale" etc., was most enjoyable and it was good to have such an encouraging number of folk of all ages appreciating the fresh air and exercise. Fathers in charge of push chairs especially enjoyed the latter!

The picnic tea came none too soon, and it was surprising that some of the younger folk managed to hold out so long without helping themselves to a sandwich or two. Mind you, I did see a tomato being demolished.

At last the ramblers arrived back to Church and to a welcome cup of tea (or orange) and a biscuit, and then into Evening Service with plenty of things yet to happen.

Commencing with community hymn singing, led by Mrs. A. Baines, we went on to hear readings and poems by Mrs. D. Emmott, Mrs. D. Law and Stephen Collins. Two solos were also given by Mrs. A. Bradbury. A high spot of the Service was the excellent first performance given by our newly-formed orchestra, -- "The Envoys", which, after only three rehearsals, drew spontaneous applause by the excellence of their playing. Thanks to all who took part expecially to Mrs. Ivy Bradbury who trained and conducted the orchestra and to Mrs. Starkie at the piano. (Young people wishing to join "The Envoys" should come along to rehearsals. Times will be announced in Church. Bring instruments if you have any. If not then just come along, we will find something you can do).

We shall all remember this Sunday and not least the message given by Our Minister - "TO SEEK CHRIST - TO DECIDE FOR CHRIST- and TO CONTINUE WITH CHRIST". This we are all resolved to try to do.

"Keeping the grey matter 'ticking over'."
Answers to questions as seen on page 10 of our last issue:

1. Clarionet; bassoon; piccolo; flute; oboe.
   (Three wood-wind instruments).
2. Beethoven. (Famous composer who became deaf).
3. Sally in our Alley.
   (Smart girl who lived in a humble street)
4. Clementine. (In which song does the heroine wear No. 9 shoes?)
5. Oberamergau in Bavaria.
   (Where is the Passion Play performed?).
   Every 10 years. (How often?).
6. Rome: first century after Christ. (Where is Colosseum, and when was it built?)
7. Holman Hunt. (Who painted the picture entitled - "The Light of the World"?)
8. Colchester.
   (In which zoo can a 'Zeedonk' be seen?)
9. Haworth. (Where did the Brontes live?)
10. Job. He says this of himself. Job XIX.20)
    (Who was the first man saved 'by the skin of his teeth'?)

How many did you get right?

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YOUNG MUMS

Two meetings only in August - 14th and 28th. These are open for you to bring the children who will be home on holiday and we are looking forward to enjoying Sports and a possible 'Picnic' in the Park. If wet we shall meet in the Schoolroom.

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CHURCH BRIGHTENING

Once again we are greatly indebted to a number of our Church folk for their contribution to lightening and brightening the premises. Their efforts have indeed effected a transformation.

Our sincere thanks to you all!

BE -ATTITUDES

The members of the Young People's Department recently asked themselves the question: "What is happiness?" and came up with the following answers:-

Happiness is.....
.....Eating Mum's dinners.
.....Going on Holiday.
.....Helping others to be happy.
.....Horses
.....David Cassidy.
.....Spending a whole day shopping.
.....Being able to move every joint.
.....Going swimming.
.....Starting a new knitting pattern.
.....Buying a new lipstick.
.....Hearing the 4 O'Clock Bell at school
.....A new book.
.....When your in love.
.....The little things you look forward to.
.....A sunny day.
.....Being with friends.
.....Being at peace with your own conscience.

Those who deplore the shallowness of some of these values should reflect that in their formative years these kids were told by television that happiness is egg-shaped.

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NORTH EAST MANCHESTER LAY PREACHERS FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations are extended to Mrs. M. Nash who has completed Block 2 of the Lay Preachers Certificate Course, obtaining a Credit Pass.

INDOOR GARDEN PARTY

In view of the uncertainty of the weather the Garden Party was held in the Schoolroom on Saturday, 20th July. The event raised £25, plus the sale of the photographs taken by Mr. Ron. Gillon, which are now in circulation at 5p & 10p each. If you were there, ask to see them and place your order, if you have not already done so.

BURNT OFFERINGS

It is unlikely that most of our readers will see the connection between hymn 157 and the benefits of non-stick frying pans, but for Mrs. Staff the link is obvious and unforgetable.

Part way through morning service on Sunday, 14th July, a new significance was added to the hymn when the worshippers reached the second verse.

"Worthy the lamb", sang the congregation in joyous exultation.

"My lamb chops!" thought Mrs. Staff in a despairing moment of truth, and with a hurried explanation to Charlotte Wilkinson, she fled through the door.

Harry Mellor, thinking there must be a bomb scare, calmly put down his hymn book and stepped outside to review the situation. On being given the basic facts of the problem he rapidly conveyed Mrs. Staff to her abode in time to witness the final transformation of lamb chops into fresh cinders. Since there is no point in crying over burnt chops, so to speak, Mrs. Staff and Mr.Mellor left the smoke-filled kitchen and returned to church in time for the sermon and no doubt, to give thanks that the house had not been burned down.

The ministerial remark on the incident, delivered with true pan-Nash was;

"God moves in a mysterious way".

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COFFEE DAY

The World Mission Committee have arranged another

"COFFEE MORNING & EVENING"

to be held at the home of Mrs. D.Emmott, 25 Heaton St.

on Friday, 30th August.

Coffee served from 10.00 -11.30 am. & 7.0-9.0 pm.

Bring & Buy Stall

One ticket admits you to either session..10p;

IN THEIR SMALL CORNER

Do you know od the Warner Sisters? Probably not, for they were quiet girls who lived humbly with their father in New York. There was not much money in the family and it fell to Susan and Anna to keep the home going. Of course, young ladies didn't go out to work in those days, so they earned money by writing books and stories, and indeed, they became popular and well known.

Almost all they wrote is forgotten now. Yet Anna and Susan each wrote something which has enriched the life of each one of us, and which will always be remembered. For, from the pens of these two forgotton sisters came two of our best-loved childrens hymns. Anna wrote "Jesus Loves Me This I Know", the first hymn many children learn. Susan wrote "Jesus Bids Us Shine" which children still sing in many churches and Sunday Schools today. Neither sister could ever have guessed that, of all their writings, these two hymns would be the only things that lasted. Yet what child, even now, does not know and love the lines that we too, treasure?

"In this world is darkness, so we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine."

(Taken from the Friendship Book of Francis Gay)

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DID YOU GUESS?

The last edition of the "Messenger" contained an item entitled:

"Pader agan arluth"

How many of you guessed the meaning in English? This was none other than

"The Lord's Prayer"

Perhaps it is easier to say in English but it means the same in any language.

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

BACK TO NORMAL

An enjoyable coffee evening was held by the Women's Guild at the home of Mrs. Stott shortly after some of us had returned from our holidays. Much news was exchanged and a happy time was had by all with their recollections of happy times. The conversation went on to such a late hour that rumour has it that one or two found themselves locked out when they got home.

GRATITUDE

Littleborough ladies were pleased to have Miss Paton-Rogerson, Chairman of the North East Manchester District Women's Guilds as speaker at the July meeting. For her address she took the story of the ten lepers and spoke to us about Gratitude and Ingratitude. Mrs. Nash thanked her for her talk.

NOT 2 B MISSED

What? FAMILY PICNIC TO TODMORDEN PARK.

When? SATURDAY, 24th August.

Where? MEET AT LITTLEBOROUGH STATION AT 1.25 pm.

And? BRING A PICNIC TEA.

DID YOU REMEMBER?

.....to bring your gifts back for the Holiday Stall. There is still time. The Bring and Buy Sale isn't until after the September Weekend; 24th September to be precise.

DON'T FORGET

.....to come and choose your Christmas Gifts and Cards on Tuesday, 27th August from 7.30 pm. Birthday cards, etc., may be purchased from the table in the schoolroom at any meeting, or after morning service.

MANY MANSIONS

Excerpts from a letter received by our Minister from Mrs. C. Hoyle (5, Taylor Terrace, Littleborough). Mrs. Hoyle is nearly 80 years of age and has spent "happy years in the Master's Service in Sunday School and Church and hold very hallowed memories of friends now departed.

".....we have several old halls here namely Stubley, Schofield (in ruins), Clegg Hall, Dearnley Old Hall, Shore Hall, Handle Hall, Honresfeld, Pike House, Townhouse, Hare Hill House, Gale House, Bent House, Windy Bank.....
.....My grandfather is buried at Haworth in the Hall Green Church yard. He was born at Haworth.....
.....no clogs and shawls and dirt here as the R.A.S.C. who were stationed here in 1941-43 thought to find.....they did not expect to find green fields and Hollingworth Lake, nor the kind-hearted Northerners....."

Thank you, Mrs. Hoyle.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Our oldest church member, Mrs. Wade will be 82 on 10th August. We send her our heartiest good wishes.

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THANK YOU

Mrs. Avis Merrick would like to thank everyone for their concern, enquiries, good wishes, cards, flowers and gifts received during her illness and stay in hospital. We are pleased that she has recovered so well and hope she continues to make good progress.

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BOX MONEY

£15.55 was received from the Missionary Boxes which were opened on the 16th June. Grateful thanks are extended to all those who contributed.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Aug. 4th	G. Buckley	A. Rae
11th	H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
18th	D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy
25th	J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle
Sept. 1st	J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins

ELDERS ROTA
EVENING DOOR STEWARDS

ORGANIST/PIANIST
EVENING WORSHIP

Aug. 4th	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. D. Logan
11th	Mr. R. Gillon	Mrs. C. Hey
18th	Mr. J. Wild	Mrs. E. Starkie
25th	Mrs. N. Settle	Mr. J. Emmott
Sept. 1st	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Aug. 4th	Mr. A. Roberts	Mr. J. Emmott
18th	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mr. R. Gillon (am)
Sept. 1st	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. K. Hey

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Aug. 4th	Mrs. K. Reid	Mrs. P. Royle
11th	Mrs. E. Busil	Miss I. Tither
18th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
25th	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg
Sept. 1st	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth

People unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Aug.	4th	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. F. Ingham	
	11th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mrs. Crossley	am.
		Mr. E. Holt	Mr. J. Lord	pm.
	18th	Mr. J. Nairn	Mrs. Stott	
	25th	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. F. Ingham	
Sept.	1st	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. J. Holt	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Aug.	11th	Mr. F. Simpson	Mr. F. Beattie	pm.
	23rd	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. J. Lord	am.

COFFEE ROTA

Aug.	4th	D. Mallinson	B. Holt
	11th	J. Law	H. Vincent
	18th	J. Allison	A. Merrick
	25th	L. Kelsall	L. Butterworth
Sept.	1st	W. Spinks	J. Hobbs

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Aug.	4th	"A rhythm of work and rest Mark 1: 29-39	M. Grindrod
	11th	"God's faithfulness - our praise" Psalm 138	H. Vincent
	18th	"Purity of worship" Psalm 24: 1 -6	K. Hill
	25th	"The whole world in his hands" Psalm 95: 1 -7	S. Moss
Sept.	1st		M. Law

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ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

August			
Sun.	4th	11.00 am.	Rev.A. Nash (Sacrament of Baptism)
		6.00 pm.	" Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon.	5th	7.30 pm.	Whist Drive & Each Monday
		7.30 pm.	Finance Committee
Tues.	6th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild: Mrs. B. Evans
Fri.	9th	7.30 pm.	Slide Show & Plant Sale
Sun.	11th	11.00 am.	Mrs. M. Nash
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. M. Carnihan
Wed.	14th	2.00 pm.	Young Mums: Sports Afternoon
		7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun.	18th	11.00 am.	Family Worship with Communion
		6.00 pm.	Rev. A. Nash
Sun.	25th	11.00 am.	Counc.W.S. Edwards M.B.E., J.P.
		6.00 pm.	Rev.A. Nash
*Fri.	30th	10.00 -11.30 am.	)Coffee morning and
		7.00 - 9.00 pm.	)evening at 25 Heaton St.
*Wed.	28th	Young Mums Picnic	
Sat.	31st	SPONSORED WALK (Details to be announced)	
September			
Sun.	1st	11.00 am.	Rev.A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Aug.	4th	The Wedding Parties	
	11th	Mrs. E. McDermott	Mrs.C. Wilkinson
	18th	Mrs. R. Wolfenden	Mrs. P. Staff
	25th	Mrs. A. Collins	Mrs. R. Sandham
Sept.	1st	Mrs. A. Whitworth	

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OFFERTORIES

	Cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
June	£20.70	£6.26	£55.22	£82.18

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

August		
Sun. 4th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Tues. 6th	7.30 pm.	Coffee Evening at 2 Centre Vale.10p
Sat. 10th		Pilots go to camp
Sun. 11th	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00 pm.	" (Communion)
Tues.13th		Womens Guild trip to Llandudno
Sun. 18th	10.30 am.	Mrs. Nash
Tues.20th	7.30 pm.	WomensGuild Birthday Supper
	7.30 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting
Sat. 24th	1.25 pm.	Train to Todmorden Park. (Annual Picnic)
Sun. 25th	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash (Communion)
Tues.27th	7.30 pm.	Coffee Evening & Bring & Buy Sale in aid of Drapery Stall. Also preview of Christmas Cards etc for Young People's Stall...5p.
September		
Sun. 1st	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

August 4th	Mrs. D. Leach
11th	Mrs. Lightfoot
18th	Mrs. Hill
25th	Mrs. H.N. Hill
Sept. 1st	Mrs. Holt & Mrs. Cockcroft

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OFFERTORIES

	Cash	Envelopes	
May	£7.19	£39.82	
June 2nd	£9.22	£ 4.75	Christian Aid
9 th	£3.39	£15.35	
16 th	£2.07	£ 8.45	
23th	Holiday		
30th	Holiday		

MINISTER:

Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.,
The Manse,
196 Harbour Lane,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

*

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
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Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
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Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

*

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Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW:

Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle

*